

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings and versions:

1 to 19. (canceled).

20. (previously presented): An assay kit for detecting the presence of a hepatitis C virus (HCV) glycoprotein having mannose-terminated glycosylation, wherein less than about 10% of the total N-linked carbohydrate on said HCV glycoprotein is sialic acid, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is selected from the group consisting of a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV, a glycoprotein expressed from the E2 region of HCV, and aggregates thereof, said kit comprising:

a solid support;

a mannose-binding protein; and an isolated antibody ~~directed against~~ that binds to said HCV glycoprotein and does not bind to other HCV proteins;

wherein one of said antibody and said mannose-binding protein is bound to said solid support.

21. (original): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said mannose-binding protein is GNA.

22. (original): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said antibody is bound to said support and said mannose-binding protein is bound to a detectable label.

23. (original): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said mannose-binding protein is bound to said support and said antibody is bound to a detectable label.

24 to 55. (canceled).

56. (currently amended): An isolated antibody ~~directed against~~ that binds to a hepatitis C virus (HCV) glycoprotein having mannose-terminated glycosylation, wherein less than about 10% of the total N-linked carbohydrate on said HCV glycoprotein is sialic acid, wherein said antibody does not bind to other HCV proteins, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is selected from the group consisting of a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV, a glycoprotein

expressed from the E2 region of HCV, and aggregates thereof, and further wherein said HCV glycoprotein is produced by the method comprising the steps of:

growing a host cell transformed with a structural gene encoding an HCV glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV or the E2 region of HCV in a suitable culture medium;
causing expression of said structural gene, under conditions inhibiting sialylation; and
isolating said HCV glycoprotein from said cell culture by contacting said HCV glycoprotein with a mannose-binding protein specific for mannose-terminated glycoproteins, and isolating the protein that binds to said mannose-binding protein.

57. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 56, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV.

58. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 56, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is a glycoprotein expressed from the E2 region of HCV.

59. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 56, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is an aggregate of a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV and a glycoprotein expressed from the E2 region of HCV.

60. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 56, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is an aggregate of glycoproteins expressed from the E1 region of HCV.

61. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 56, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is an aggregate of glycoproteins expressed from the E2 region of HCV.

62. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 56, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

63. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 57, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

64. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 58, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

65. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 59, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

66. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 60, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

67. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 61, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

68. (previously presented): The antibody of claim 56, wherein the structural gene is linked to a sequence encoding a secretion leader that directs the glycoprotein to the endoplasmic reticulum and said conditions inhibiting sialylation comprise inhibiting transport of glycoproteins from the endoplasmic reticulum to the golgi.

69. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV.

70. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is a glycoprotein expressed from the E2 region of HCV.

71. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is an aggregate of a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV and a glycoprotein expressed from the E2 region of HCV.

72. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is an aggregate of glycoproteins expressed from the E1 region of HCV.

73. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is an aggregate of glycoproteins expressed from the E2 region of HCV.

74. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 20, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

75. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 69, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

76. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 70, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

77. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 71, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

78. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 72, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

79. (previously presented): The assay kit of claim 73, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.